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The Playground

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EDITOR



Department of Education, New York City.

ROOF PLAYGROUND ON PHIPPS MODEL TENEMENT.

The Playground

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Executive Committee

of the

Playground Association of America

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"But not alone at Christmas time, comes holiday and cheer
For one who loves a little child, has Christmas all the year."

THE great holidays make for betterment in life, according to the underlying ideals. They may emphasize patriotism or labor, nature, or gratitude, but Christmas brings into world-consciousness especially the family, and pre-eminently the child.

Messages from pioneers in the playground movement have been collected and are here presented to encourage not only playground associations, and possible legislative committees, but you and all other individuals, as you remember the pleasures and restrictions of childhood, to determine in this Christmas season to help secure for children everywhere the fullest measure of health and happiness.



National Child Labor Committee.

All the children in this Georgia family work in the mill, except the four smallest.

A Special Christmas Message from the Children's Friend

So long as there is a child in our land who toils in shop or tenement when he should be out at play, whose school is without a playground, and whose out-of-doors is bounded by the gutters of the public street, with never a tree or shrub or flower, so long the masses will hate the classes; the policeman be to the boy an enemy instead of a friend; and the Republic has not had a square deal. To give the boy back his childhood is more than justice and common sense. It is sane government.

This is my Christmas wish for your cause and for us all—that abundant common sense may come with the season of good will.

JACOB A. RIIS.



National Child Labor Committee.

BREAKER BOYS AT WORK.



Trinity Church Parish of New York City has given these boys a few days' play life in the country.



The Chicago Tuberculosis Institute.

CHICAGO OUTDOOR SCHOOL FOR TUBERCULOUS CHILDREN.

The obvious relation of playgrounds to physical development and that life-saving instinct which I call "air hunger", is sufficient to stamp them as indispensable factors in the rearing of the young.

The success of the tuberculosis crusade depends on the upbuilding of proper habits. Every effort must be made to implant in children a hunger and thirst for fresh air. Of all things we know, playgrounds are, perhaps, of the greatest importance in creating this hunger.

HENRY BAIRD FAVILL, M.D., *President,*
The Chicago Tuberculosis Institute.



National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis.

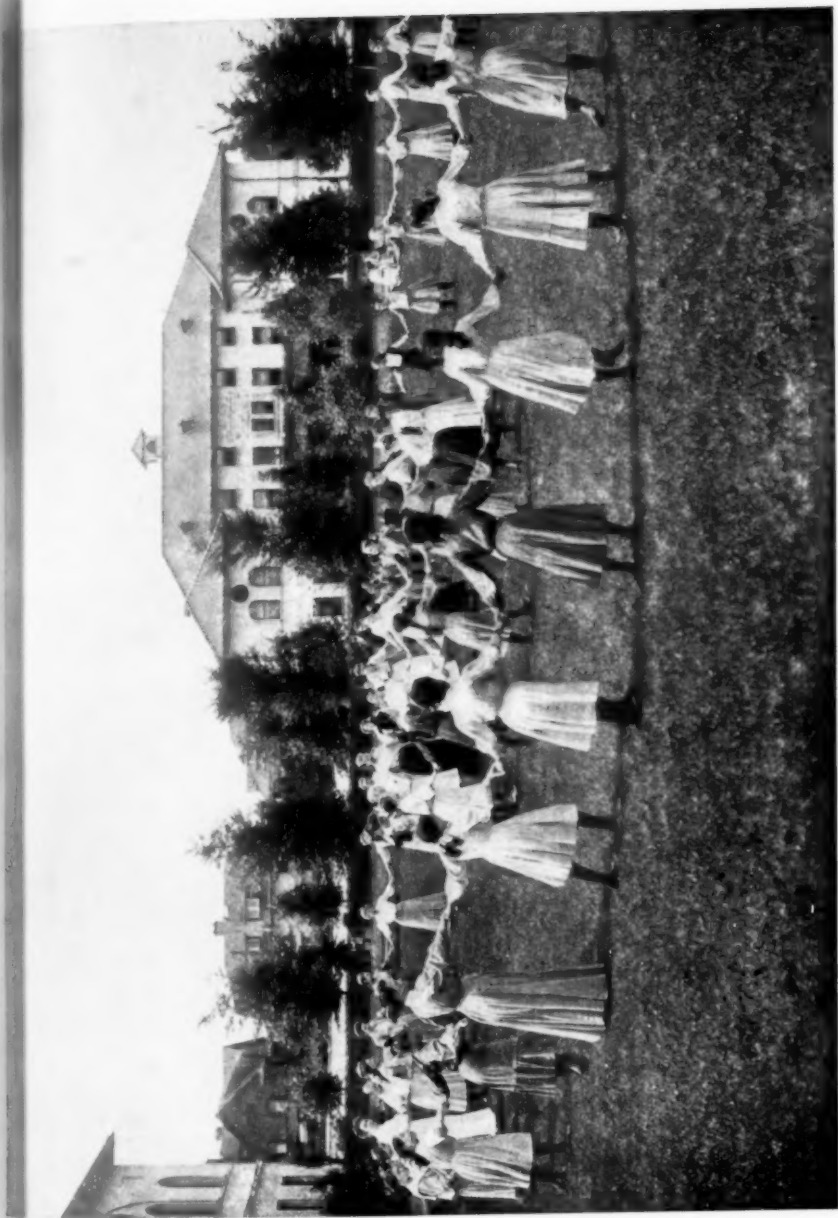
SEA BREEZE HOME.

Even tubercular children like to play ball.



Washington Playground Association.

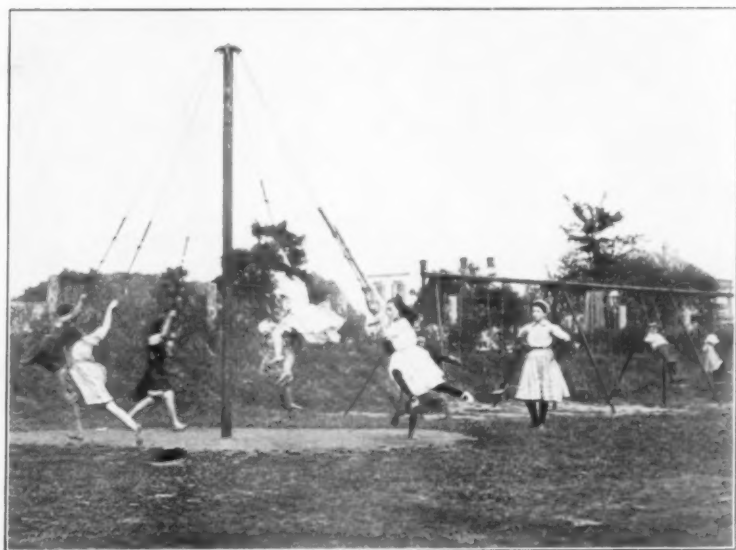
A playground before is cheaper than a tuberculosis sanitarium afterwards.



Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, Overbrook, Pa.
BLIND GIRLS AT PLAY.

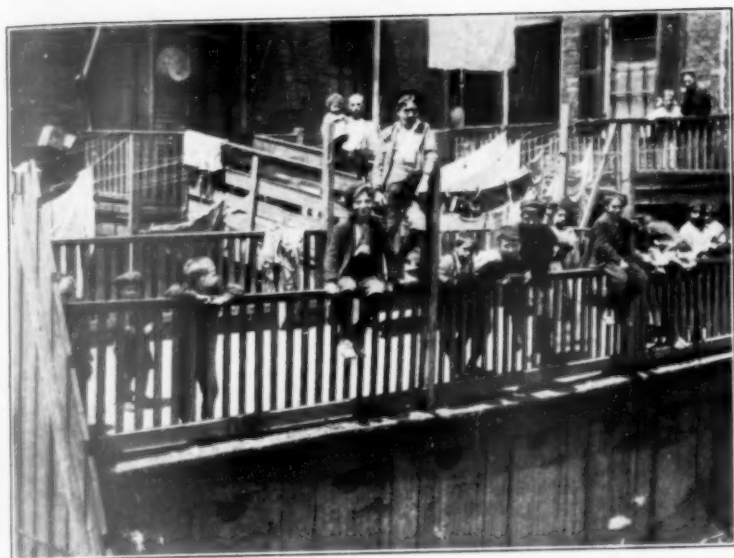


RUBBISH, FILTH, NEGLECT.
The playground of a little child.



Washington Playground Association.

The joy of playing together. A playground makes a good Christmas present, carries the Christmas spirit through the year.



Mischief is brewing when there is no playground.



Washington Playground Association.

A good playground race lets off steam.



Department of Education, New York City.

BASKETBALL. AN EXCITING MOMENT.

The ultimate test of the city is: Can it rear up out of its own life a new generation of alert and productive citizens? At present the city stands condemned at the bar of human nature. It cannot in human terms pay its debts to the past, not to speak of passing on a generous heritage to the future. Yet the city will redeem itself. The city will ere long throw the odds in favor—no longer against—the rise of its children into healthy, noble manhood; and for this the playground will be its fittest instrument.

ROBERT A. WOODS,
Head of South End House, Boston, Mass.



Department of Education, New York City.

THE NEW "OLD SWIMMING HOLE."

A boy is not likely to spend his time in a hot, stuffy alley shooting craps, when there is a swimming pool on the playground just around the corner.

JANE ADDAMS.

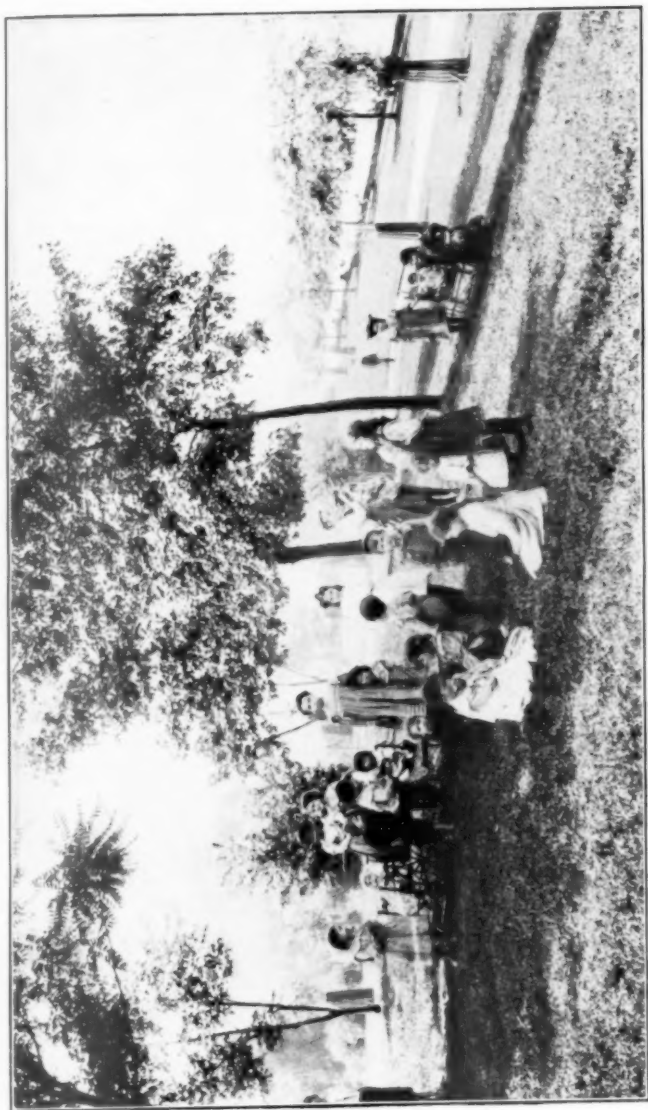


Washington Playground Association.

The modern city has a "swimming hole" for girls as well as for the boys.

A little six-year-old girl said, as she sat in a tenement room fashioning the artificial flowers with her tiny fingers: "Sometimes I get licked 'cause I don't want to work and want to play wid my doll."

What God intended as the birthright of every little child, man, through avarice and greed, has endeavored to take away. Let us restore the child to play and play to the child. It will go a long way toward developing moral, as well as healthy, boys and girls. We need playgrounds and the best play teachers we can find.—MAUD E. MISTER, *Secretary*, New York Probation Association.



The "little mothers" play with their charges on a part of the public playground, safe from the dangers of the street.



Department of Education, New York City.

Better a playground without a schoolhouse, than a schoolhouse without a playground.
WOODS HUTCHINSON, A.M., M.D.



Public Athletic League of Baltimore.

KINDERGARTEN RECREATION PIER—East 24th Street, New York.

The statesman of the day may provide for the future security of the Republic in no way more surely than by writing in the laws of the Nation and of every state, provision for the protection and proper development of child life, through a system of play schools.

The blessings of liberty "to ourselves and our posterity" certainly include provision for the health and strength, happiness and character of our children. Whether the statesmen at Washington establish a bureau for the study and protection of child life, whether statesmen throughout the country as a committee of the national association or as individuals write the necessary provisions in the statutes of the several states, these things will come to pass more surely if the friends of the playground movement advance the cause of playgrounds in their respective neighborhoods, and to "promote the general welfare" and "form a more perfect union," join forces with and become members of the Playground Association of America.

The regular schools provide for one-half of the children for less than one-fifth of their time each year. Provision is made thus for less than one-tenth of the total child-life of the country. What better provision can be made for the rest of the time than the establishment and maintenance of properly equipped and efficiently supervised playgrounds?

SETH THAYER STEWART.

On the playground the child lives, while in school he prepares to live. That is why it is true that if you can tell me how a child plays, I can tell you how he will work. That is why it is true that more people go to the bad through wrong play than through wrong work; and why play ranks with work, food, and sleep as a necessary part in the balanced life of the child. The playground is cheaper than the reformatory; that is why it is as necessary that children have adequate and suitable play as that they have adequate and suitable schooling.

The play life of a people indicates more than anything else its vitality, morals, intelligence, and fitness to live.

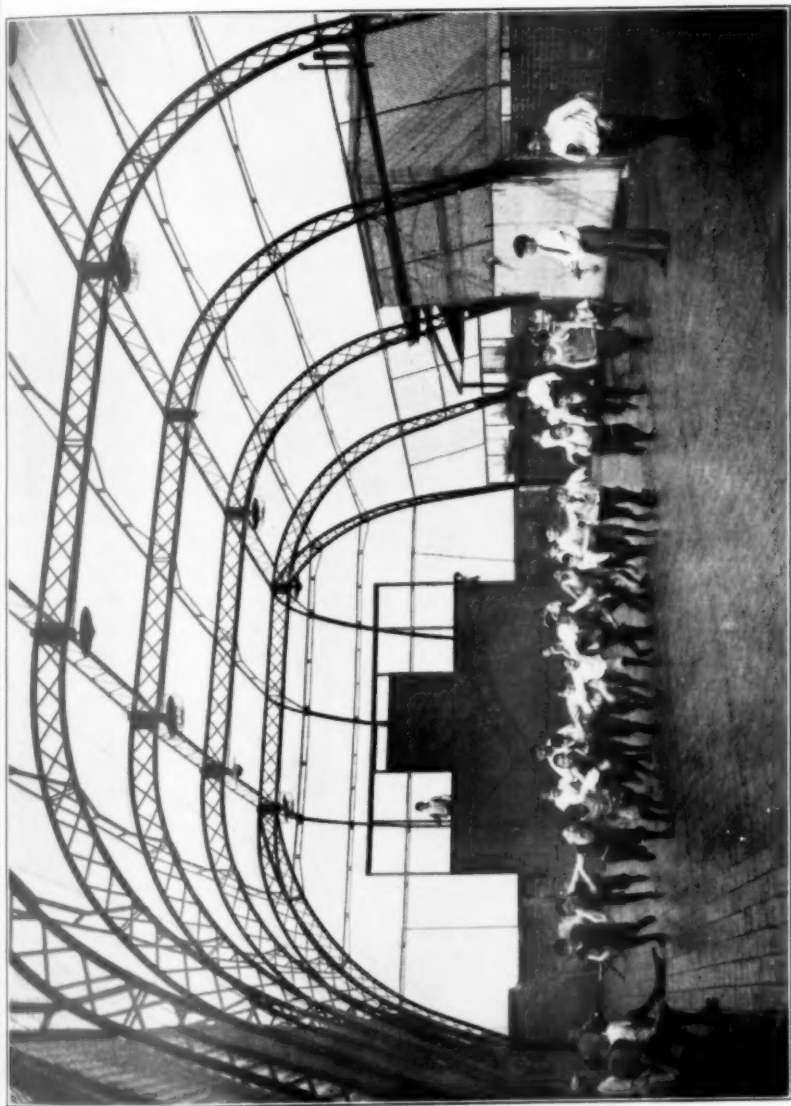
LUTHER HALSEY GULICK, M.D.

I think it would be difficult to find any point at which, in our largest cities, a dollar will go further in the making of those things for which the city exists than in the provision and maintenance of playgrounds.

ELMER ELLSWORTH BROWN, Ph.D.

Modern social work is inspired and guided by the belief that more life, more energy and vitality, more pleasure, a more powerful throb of the whole machine, is what we need most of all, both for ourselves and everyone else—rich or poor, sick or well. Recreation, with responsibility and affection, makes this possible. To get these three vital foods for all with whom we deal is the social worker's chief task.

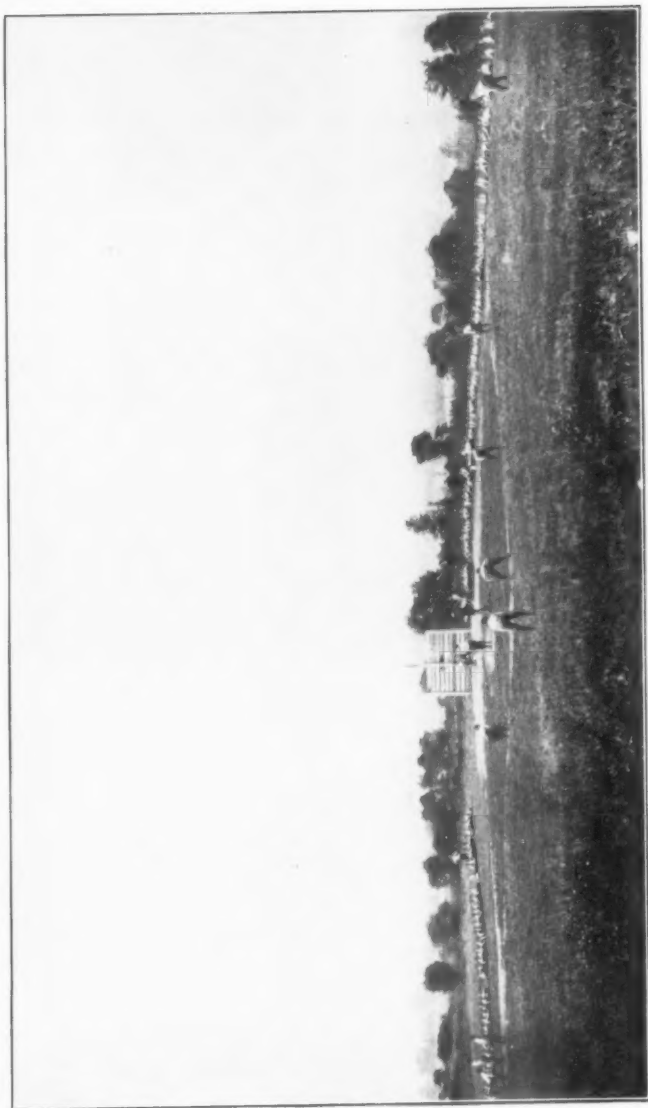
RICHARD C. CABOT, M.D.,
Massachusetts General Hospital,
Boston, Mass.



Department of Education, New York City.

ROOF PLAYGROUND, UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT, NEW YORK CITY.

Will our cities establish playgrounds while land is cheap or build them upon the roofs later?



Department of Education, New York City.

TRUANTS PLAYING BALL.

There is no lack of energy on the ball field.

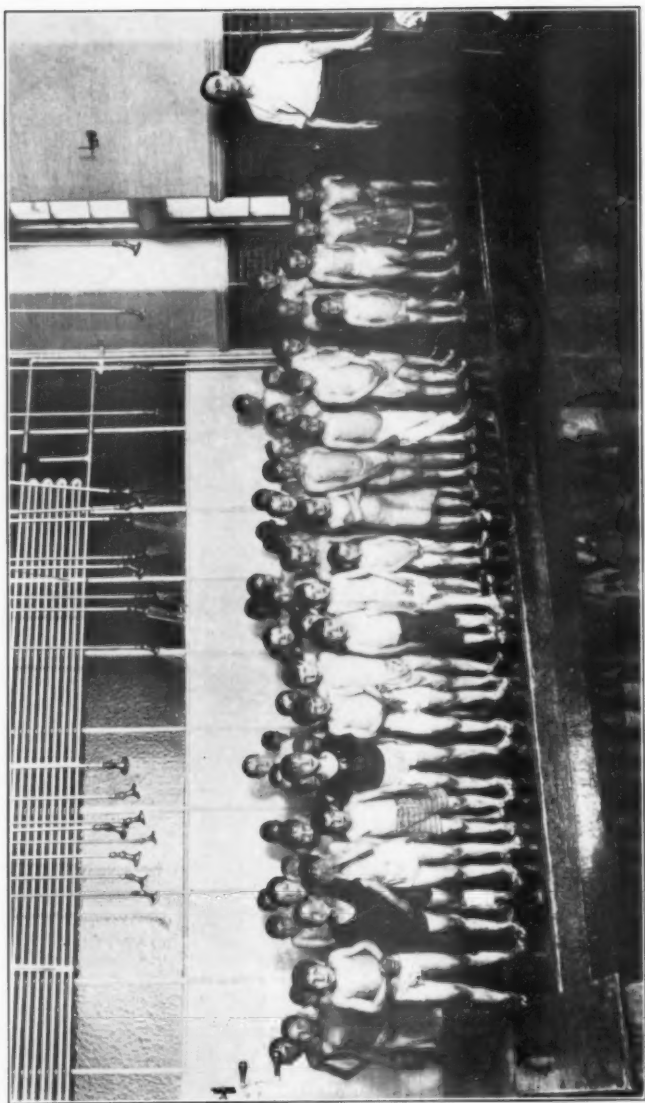
No one can adequately measure the effect for good of rightly administered boys' clubs and children's playgrounds. Valuable as churches are to a community, if half of those in Springfield were closed and a corresponding amount of energy and labor put into boys' and girls' clubs and playgrounds, the gain to the city would be immense.

PHILIP S. MOSCOW, D.D., South Church, Springfield, Mass.



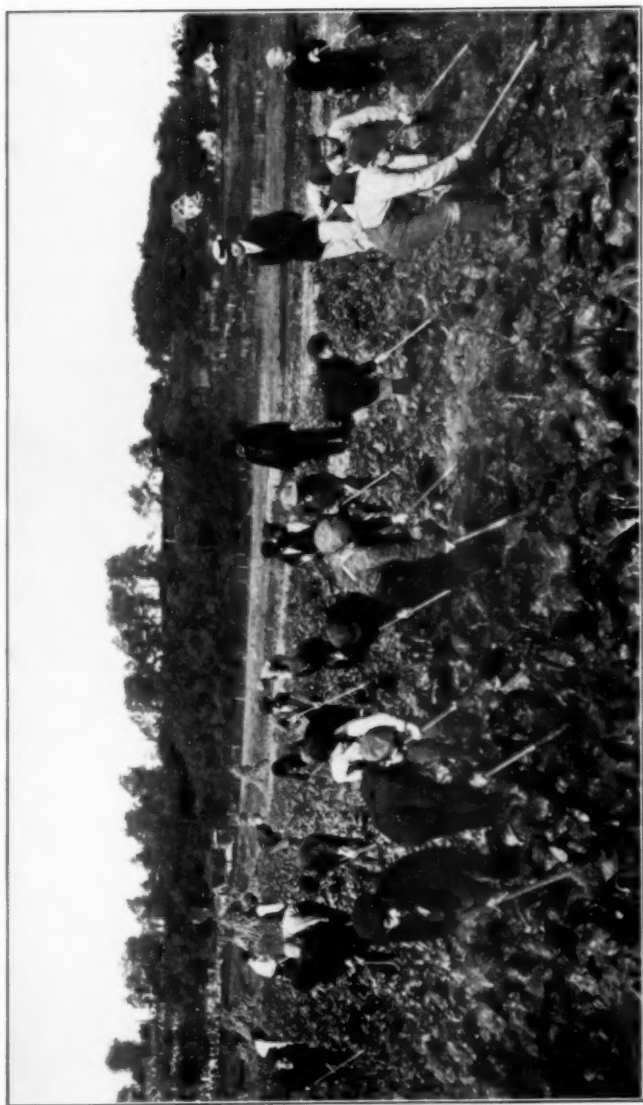
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A BALL GAME ON THE ROOF OF UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT, NEW YORK CITY.



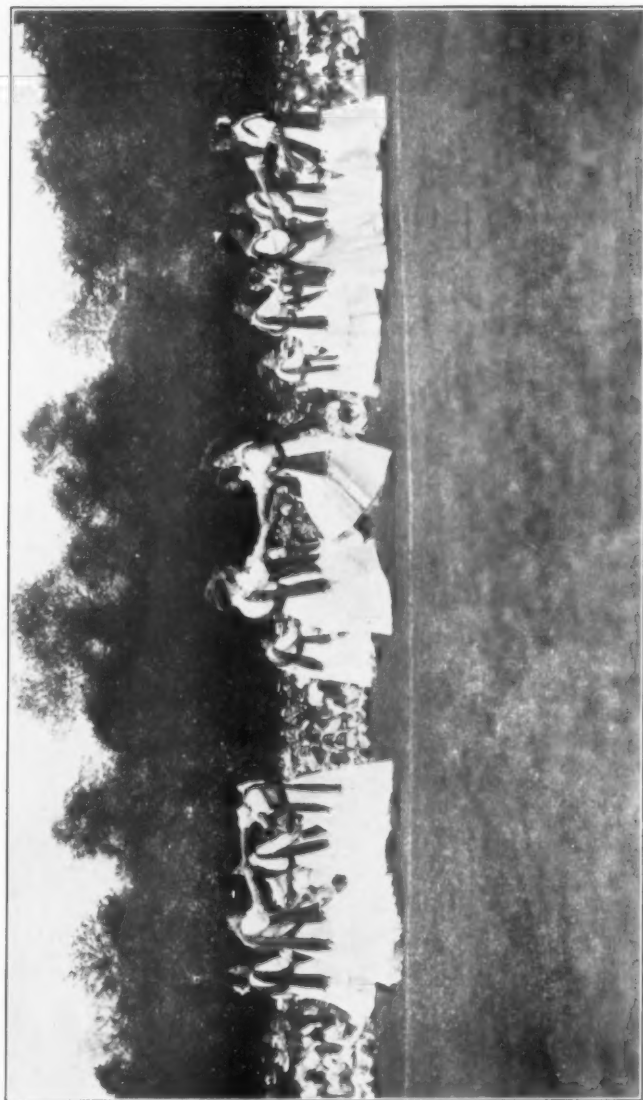
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FUTURE CITIZENS.



Department of Education, New York City.

GARDENING AS A FORM OF PLAY FOR TRUANT BOYS.



VAN CORTLANDT PARK, NEW YORK CITY.
In Nature's dance hall no danger lurks.

Fifteen thousand young people under the age of twenty were arrested last year in Chicago because they had failed to keep even the common law of the land. Most of these young people had broken the law in their blundering efforts to find adventure and in response to the old impulse for self-expression. It is said that practically the whole machinery of the grand jury and of the criminal court is maintained and operated for the benefit of youths between the ages of thirteen and twenty-five. Possibly these fifteen thousand youths were brought to grief because the adult population was deaf to the appeal of these young creatures, who were claiming their share of the joy of life, flinging out into the city their desires and aspirations for unknown realities, their unutterable longings for companionship and pleasure. Their very demand for excitement is a protest against the dullness of life to which we ourselves respond.

JANE ADDAMS,

"The Spirit of Youth and the City Streets."

Civilization is failing at its sources, for it has created a class too low to be moved by it. In this lower realm religion and morality do not act; amusements and sports are the only effective motives to elevate men. Sport is the beginning of inspiration, just as amusement is the lower round of regeneration. Only the most elementary forces act on men depressed by overwork and degenerated by overcrowding. We do not need a new religion, a new morality, nor a new culture. They are already effective in their proper field; but we do need intense motives for men subjected to depression and degeneration.

In the transformation of the weak into the strong, the imagination is a dominant power. Leisure and recreation must give the surplus energy for imagination.

Toil, without purposeful occupied leisure, is unfulfilled purpose, a process arrested midway. A complete day holding work, amusement, and rest makes effective life.

SIMON NELSON PATTEN, Ph.D.,

Professor of Political Economy,
University of Pennsylvania.



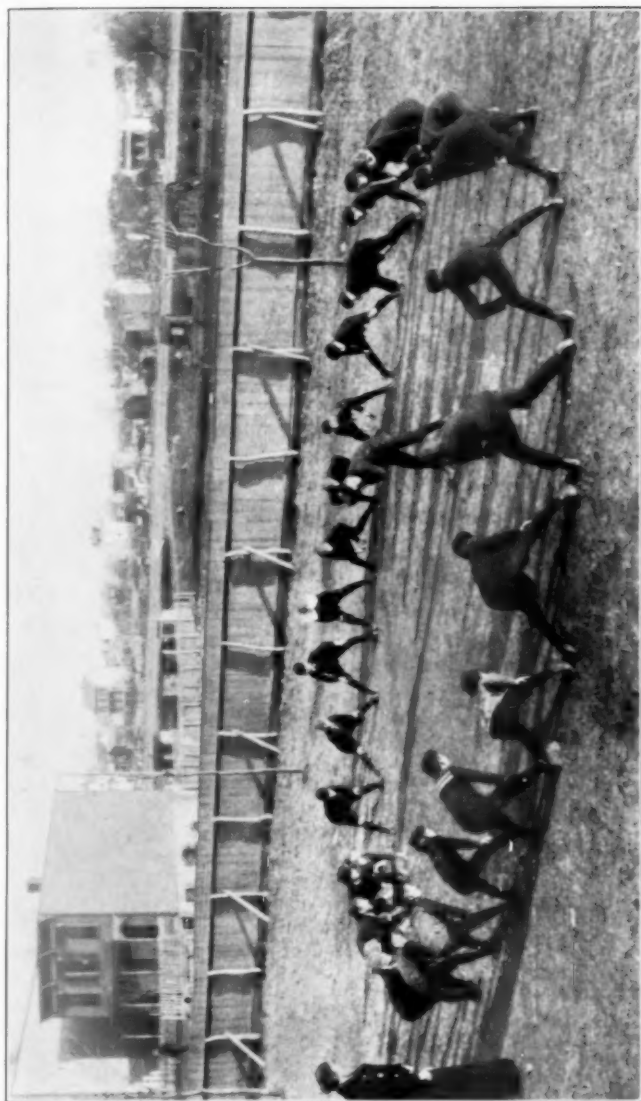
Department of Education, New York City.

MUSIC AS PLAY.

A glee club at a public school evening recreation center.

A few hours in the fresh air, a few hours of self-abandon in innocent fun, a chance to be a normal boy or girl, will do more to re-enforce your moral lessons than many, many days of mere teaching. Thus the playground will be, without any direct effort, one of the regenerating and uplifting forces of the community.

HON. CHARLES E. HUGHES.



Department of Education, New York City.

It is worth much to learn early to "play the game."

The Chicago playgrounds are the greatest civic achievement the world has ever seen.

HON. THEODORE ROOSEVELT.



Department of Education, New York City.

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CHICOPEE, MASS.

Every city is under the strongest obligation to its people to furnish to the children, from the time they begin to walk until they reach manhood, places within the city walls large enough and laid out in proper form for the playing of all sorts of games which are known to our boys and girls and are liked by them.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT.

WHO WILL SIGN THIS CHECK ?

A Christmas gift to the children and to all the citizens of our country that ways may be worked out for increasing the joy of living for all.

NO. 1

NEW YORK, Dec 25th 1909



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